1	Senate Bill No. 166
2	(By Senators Laird, Tucker, Yost, Barnes, Plymale, Unger, Miller,
3	Jenkins, Wills and Klempa)
4	
5	[Introduced January 12, 2012; referred to the Committee on the
6	Judiciary; and then to the Committee on Finance.]
7	
8	
9	
10	
11	A BILL to amend and reenact $\$61-5-17$ of the Code of West Virginia,
12	1931, as amended, relating to making it a felony to disarm or
13	attempt to disarm correctional officers.
14	Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:
15	That §61-5-17 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended,
16	be amended and reenacted to read as follows:
17	ARTICLE 5. CRIMES AGAINST PUBLIC JUSTICE.
18	<pre>§61-5-17. Obstructing officer; fleeing from officer; making false</pre>
19	statements to officer; penalties; definitions.
20	(a) Any person who by threats, menaces, acts or otherwise,
21	forcibly or illegally hinders or obstructs, or attempts to hinder
22	or obstruct, any law-enforcement officer, probation officer or
23	parole officer acting in his or her official capacity is guilty of

1 a misdemeanor and, upon conviction thereof, shall be fined not less
2 than \$50 nor more than \$500 or confined in jail not more than one
3 year, or both fined and confined.

4 (b) Any person who intentionally disarms or attempts to disarm 5 any law-enforcement officer, <u>correctional officer</u>, probation 6 officer or parole officer, acting in his or her official capacity, 7 is guilty of a felony and, upon conviction thereof, shall be 8 imprisoned in a state correctional facility not less than one nor 9 more than five years.

10 (c) Any person who, with intent to impede or obstruct a law-11 enforcement officer in the conduct of an investigation of a felony 12 offense, knowingly and willfully makes a materially false 13 statement, is guilty of a misdemeanor and, upon conviction thereof, 14 shall be fined not less than \$25 and not more than \$200, or 15 confined in jail for five days, or both fined or and confined. 16 However, the provisions of this section do not apply to statements 17 made by a spouse, parent, stepparent, grandparent, sibling, half 18 sibling, child, stepchild or grandchild, whether related by blood 19 or marriage, of the person under investigation. Statements made by 20 the person under investigation may not be used as the basis for 21 prosecution under this subsection. For the purposes of this 22 subsection, "law-enforcement officer" does not include a watchman, 23 a member of the West Virginia State Police or college security 24 personnel who is not a certified law-enforcement officer.

1 (d) Any person who intentionally flees or attempts to flee by 2 any means other than the use of a vehicle from any law-enforcement 3 officer, probation officer or parole officer acting in his or her 4 official capacity who is attempting to make a lawful arrest of the 5 person, and who knows or reasonably believes that the officer is 6 attempting to arrest him or her, is guilty of a misdemeanor and, 7 upon conviction thereof, shall be fined not less than \$50 nor more 8 than \$500 or confined in jail not more than one year, or both.

9 (e) Any person who intentionally flees or attempts to flee in 10 a vehicle from any law-enforcement officer, probation officer or 11 parole officer acting in his or her official capacity, after the 12 officer has given a clear visual or audible signal directing the 13 person to stop, is guilty of a misdemeanor and, upon conviction 14 thereof, shall be fined not less than \$500 nor more than \$1,000 and 15 shall be confined in a regional jail not more than one year.

(f) Any person who intentionally flees or attempts to flee in vehicle from any law-enforcement officer, probation officer or parole officer acting in his or her official capacity, after the officer has given a clear visual or audible signal directing the person to stop, and who operates the vehicle in a manner showing a reckless indifference to the safety of others, is guilty of a felony and, upon conviction thereof, shall be fined not less than \$1,000 nor more than \$2,000, and shall be imprisoned in a state correctional facility not less than one nor more than five years.

1 (g) Any person who intentionally flees or attempts to flee in 2 a vehicle from any law-enforcement officer, probation officer or 3 parole officer acting in his or her official capacity, after the 4 officer has given a clear visual or audible signal directing the 5 person to stop, and who causes damage to the real or personal 6 property of any person during or resulting from his or her flight, 7 is guilty of a misdemeanor and, upon conviction thereof, shall be 8 fined not less than \$1,000 nor more than \$3,000 and shall be 9 confined in the county or regional jail for not less than six 10 months nor more than one year.

(h) Any person who intentionally flees or attempts to flee in 11 12 a vehicle from any law-enforcement officer, probation officer or 13 parole officer acting in his or her official capacity, after the 14 officer has given a clear visual or audible signal directing the 15 person to stop, and who causes bodily injury to any person during 16 or resulting from his or her flight, is guilty of a felony and, 17 upon conviction thereof, shall be imprisoned in а state 18 correctional facility not less than three nor more than ten years. (i) Any person who intentionally flees or attempts to flee in 19 20 a vehicle from any law-enforcement officer, probation officer or 21 parole officer acting in his or her official capacity, after the 22 officer has given a clear visual or audible signal directing the 23 person to stop, and who causes death to any person during or 24 resulting from his or her flight, is guilty of a felony and, upon

1 conviction thereof, shall be punished by a definite term of 2 imprisonment in a state correctional facility which is not less 3 than five nor more than fifteen years. A person imprisoned 4 pursuant to the provisions of this subsection is not eligible for 5 parole prior to having served a minimum of three years of his or 6 her sentence or the minimum period required by the provisions of 7 section thirteen, article twelve, chapter sixty-two of this code, 8 whichever is greater.

(j) Any person who intentionally flees or attempts to flee in 9 10 a vehicle from any law-enforcement officer, probation officer or 11 parole officer acting in his or her official capacity, after the 12 officer has given a clear visual or audible signal directing the 13 person to stop, and who is under the influence of alcohol, 14 controlled substances or drugs at the time, is guilty of a felony 15 and, upon conviction thereof, shall be imprisoned in a state 16 correctional facility not less than three nor more than ten years. 17 (k) For purposes of this section, the term "vehicle" includes 18 any motor vehicle, motorcycle, motorboat, all-terrain vehicle or 19 snowmobile, as those terms are defined in section one, article one, 20 chapter seventeen-a of this code, whether or not it is being 21 operated on a public highway at the time and whether or not it is 22 licensed by the state.

(1) For purposes of this section, the terms "flee", "fleeing"24 and "flight" do not include any person's reasonable attempt to

1 travel to a safe place, allowing the pursuing law-enforcement 2 officer to maintain appropriate surveillance, for the purpose of 3 complying with the officer's direction to stop.

4 (m) The revisions to subsections (e), (f), (g) and (h) of this 5 article enacted during the regular session of the 2010 regular 6 legislative session shall be known as the Jerry Alan Jones Act.

(NOTE: The purpose of this bill is to make it a felony to disarm or attempt to disarm a correctional officer.

Strike-throughs indicate language that would be stricken from the present law, and underscoring indicates new language that would be added.

This bill was recommended for introduction and passage during the 2012 Regular Session of the Legislature by the Legislative Oversight Committee on Regional Jail and Correctional Facility Authority.)

## FINANCE COMMITTEE AMENDMENT

On page six, section seventeen, line four, by striking out the word "article" and inserting in lieu thereof the word "section".